THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) According to available information, during the period 1.4.1996 to 31.7.1996 the office of Jt.DG, Cochin had received a representation in this regard from M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Co. a Public Sector Undertaking. In this case, the Principal Director of Audit, Madras had raised an audit objection on overpayment of CCS to the company. The Government had taken up the matter with the Principal Director of Audit, Madras who confirmed the objection. Consequently, the overpayment of CCS was adjusted against other pending claims and the audit objection has accordingly been settled.

Proposal to abolish the contract labour system

2851. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to abolish the contract labour system;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 seeks to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishements and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith.

The Act came into force w.e.f. 10-2-1971.

The central objective of the Act is to abolish contract labour in certain jobs/processes and to regualte the employment of contract labour in other jobs/processes where it can not be abolished. In other words, the Act does not envisage total abolition of contract labour system. It permits continuance of contract labour system but seeks to regulate it in jobs/processes/operations which are casual and intermittent in nature. The Central Government as appropriate Government for industries specified in the Act have issued several notifications since 1975 prohibiting employment of contract labour in specified processes/operation in a large number of establishments and industries.

Quality cut of paddy to the State Government by FCI

2852. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have represented for payment of Rs. 16.80 crores towards quality of paddy (rice) to the State Government by the FCI;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether necessary instructions to the FCI for early payment has been issued; and

(d) when the payment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Upto 1994-95 rice used to be procured if the quality was within the prescribed range i.e. between tolerance limit and rejection limit. With the adoption of "single grade specifications" in respect of rice the scope of value cuts has been reduced considerably. However, in 1995-96 rice marketing season, on requests of certain State Govts., quality parameters were relaxed subject to value cuts in respect of only 4 out of 9 parameters. Whatever quality cuts are made,

they get reflected in the reduced pooled cost of foodgrain with the FCI.

Economic cost of rice, even with the value cuts, remains much higher than the Central Issue Price. Central Issue Price is fixed by the Govt. conforming to the standards under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and these specifications remain the same for the whole country. In view of this, the amount of quality cuts cannot be passed on to the concerned State/UTs.

Exploitation and discrimination of women workers in unorganised sector

2853. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite all the laws and international conventions regualting condition of workers and their wages, over 90% of the 300 million labour force in the country works in the unorganised sector wherein majority of labour are women;

(b) whether despite a considerable array of regulatory machanisms to protect labour against exploitation, women-workers continue to be exploited and discriminated; and

(c) the specific steps contemplated to do away with gender-discrimination in respect of women workers in the unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) While no definite data regarding the number of workers in the unorganised sector is available, it is estimated that out of the total labour force of 314.00 million, about 85% is in the unorganised sector. The total number of working women according to 1991 census is 89.76 million of which only 4.12 million women are presently estimated to be in the organised sector.

(b) and (c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to man and women. The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 prescribes fixation of equal minimum wages to men and women in different suchedule employments. The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 provides for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of a similar nature. The Act extends to the whole of India. Authorities have been appointed at the Central and State level to enforce the provisions of the Act. As regards job security, male and female workers employed in unorganised sector are equally exposed to risk to job security. However, the actions of the employers such as dismisals/terminations whether taken under the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 or otherwise are equally challengeable by both men and women by raising an industrial dispute under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Considering the special problems of the women workers and in order to secure reasonable working conditions for them and to pre-empt their exploitation, several laws have been enacted both by the Central and State Governments such as the Beedi & Cigar workers (Condition or Employment) Act, 1966 wherein there is provison for creches for the benefit of women workers, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 wherein women workers, are to be provided time off for feeding children, and the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Codition of Service) Act, 1979 wherein separate toilet and washing facilities are to be provided to women workers.

फलों, सब्जियों और फूलों का निर्यात

2854. **श्री ईशदत्त यादव:**
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान फलों, सब्जियों और फूलों का निर्यात किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी मद-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;